

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00346 060910Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /052 W
-----060925 048114 /12

R 060820Z MAR 77
FM ZUMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2998
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0346

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL USG OFFICIAL TO GULF
PENINSULA

REF: DOHA 0280

1. WE COULD COUNT ON OMANGOV TO WELCOME HIGH LEVEL USG EMISSARY
AT ALMOST ANY TIME. I AM CONFIDENT SULTAN QABOOS AND HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PLEASED BY OBVIOUS EVIDENCE OF USG INTEREST
IN THEIR COUNTRY WHICH ON APPEARANCE HERE BY ANY OF THE OFFICIALS
SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL WOULD REPRESENT.

2. NONETHELESS, I WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST SCHEDULING SUCH A
VISITOR IN NEXT 2 OR 3 MONTHS. WHAT OMAN GOV'S DECISION MAKERS
REALLY WANT FROM US NOW IS SOMETHING MUCH MORE TANGIBLE IN
REGARD TO THEIR OWN CONCERNS, NAMELY A RESPONSE ON POSSIBLE
FORMS OF SECURITY COOPERATION CENTERED AROUND OMAN'S MASIRAH
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ISLAND. UNLESS HIGH LEVEL VISITOR CAME TO OMAN PREPARED TO
MAKE PROPOSALS OR ELABORATE ON THIS IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL,
OR UNLESS HIS VISIT OCCURRED AFTER WE ARE SOME DISTANCE ALONG
IN NEGOTIATING THIS MATTER WITH THE OMANIS (AND THIS ASSUMES
THERE IS SOMETHING WE WILL BE ASKING FOR) I BELIEVE THEY
MIGHT FEEL THEY WERE BEING SHORCHANGED AND HIGH LEVEL VISIT
WOULD BE SOMEWHAT AWKWARD.

3. FINALLY, WHILE CONCURRING WITH AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI THAT A HIGH LEVEL VISIT WOULD TEND TO DEMONSTRATE TO SMALLER GULF STATES THAT UNCLE SAM IS NOT FORGETTING THEM, THE RESULTS OF A VISIT TO OMAN MIGHT BE POTENTIALLY LESS MEASURABLE ON THE POSITIVE SIDE THAN PERHAPS IN WATAR. FOR EXAMPLE, OMAN THOUGH AN OIL-EXPORTER HAS NO VOICE IN OPEC NOR INFLUENCE ON ITS DECISIONS. NOR HAS IT SURPLUS FUNDS FOR STEPPING UP LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN U.S. SECURITIES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL VALUE TO US-OMAN RELATIONS OF SUCH A VISIT WOULD FLOW FROM THE VISITOR'S FACE-TO-FACE DECRPTION FOR THE SULTAN AND HIS TOP ASSOCIATES OF HOW, SPECIFICALLY, THE NEW USG ADMINISTRATION SEES OMAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE NEWTWORK OF US/FREE WORLD SECURITY CONCERNS IN THE GULF, THE NORTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

4. SUGGEST DEPT. REPEAT DOHA 0280 AND OTHER POSTS' COMMENTS TO EMBASSY KUWAIT.
WOLLE

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Message Attributes

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